By JOHN HUGHES
Staff writer

Ohlone used four pitchers to pull off another ninth inning 9-8 victory over visiting Gavilan College April 21.

Starting pitcher Jackson Slifer followed with two and three innings, before Sheldon Shisido took over retiring the Rams after eight full innings.

Zarubin pitched the first two innings, three of which coming after W est Valley sec- ond baseman Jason Brady grounded into an inning ending double play. The first batter for the Rams in the sixth inning after hitting the third double of the inning.

In the bottom of the fifth inning on a blistering hot 90-degree day, the Renegade bats got hot as well. Tyler Helms led off the inning with a base hit. The home plate umpire rewarded him second base because the Gavilan pitcher had trouble getting the base ball out of his glove. Tyler scored on a sharp single by Trevor Ramos and was knocked in by another single by T.J. Kahawana.

"I got a nice pitch to hit, and put a good swing on it," Matt Owens said after belting the first of three doubles in a row. Blaine Carrile said, "It was a hitter's count, I trusted my hands and hit it well," after blasting his own double down the right field line.

"After seeing the first two batters work the count, I jumped on the first pitch and hit it well," Sean Goodall said after hitting the third double of the inning.

In the top of the eighth inning, Rams infielder No. 3 Julio Cortez was retired by Renegade second baseman Matt Chaidez on a ground ball to end his perfect four-four day.

The first batter for the Rams at the top of the ninth inning hit a screaming line drive to center field.

"I got a good jump and believed in my speed to get to the ball," said Owens after catching the line drive to re- cord the first out of the inning. Gavilan College didn't score any more runs and took the loss.

Ohlone needed one run to put the game going into the bottom of the ninth.

Renegades catcher Tyler Helms, who was hit by a pitch, ended up scoring the winning run on errant throw down the right field line to end the game with a Ohlone 9-8 victory.

"It was hot today, but it's going to get a lot hotter when we play in the Central Valley," Coach Julian Russell said after the game to prepare the Renegades for the weather in the upcoming playoffs.

Ohlone baseball wounded by loss to West Valley

By THOMAS PHY
Staff writer

Ohlone baseball's nine-game win streak came to an end Wednesday as they fell to the West Valley Vikings.

The streak marked the second longest of the season for the Renegades, who won 11 games straight back in March.

Despite the final score of 11-3, Ohlone was well within reach of the Vikings until a wild seventh inning blew the game open.

Ohlone went into the sev- enth inning down only one run, but things quickly fell apart after W est Valley sec- ond baseman Jason Brady led off the inning with a bunt single.

The Vikings went on to score seven runs in the in- ning, three of which coming by way of wild pitches and a balk.

Ohlone starting pitcher Francisco Leon had pitched well up until that seventh inning, giving up three runs through six innings.

"I felt pretty good," said Leon. "I was just trying to throw strikes.

Ohlone had opportuni- ties of their own at the plate, stranding the bases loaded in the sixth inning after grounding into an inning ending double play.

While the loss was de- feating for the Renegades, Assistant Head Coach Dan Lewis saw the potential ben- efit of the result.

"It’s frustrating for the guys because we’ve been winning so much lately, but at the same time it’s good for them because they need a little kick in the ass after rat- ting off that many [...] wins," said Lewis.

With a first place finish in the Coast-Pacific Divi- sion already guaranteed, the coaching staff had the opportunity to use the game against West Valley to see the depth of their squad before heading into Regionals.

"I’ve got to give a couple guys shots because I got to see what they can do in real game situations," said Lewis. "We’ve had some guys that we’ve relied on all year that have got the job done but we’ve got to see what other guys can do."

Ohlone's final game of the regular season comes on the road against conference rival Skyline, who split their previ- ous two games against Ohlone this season.

"It’s a bigger [game] than it seems," said Lewis. "We beat them once and they beat us once so we’re looking to take the series. You never want to lose a series in conference," said Lewis.

Ohlone will begin to pre- pare for the CCCA regional tournament that begins May 5.